

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66612  
DRAFTED BY: PM/ISO: RWMASSON:ML  
APPROVED BY: PM/ISO: JWKIMBALL  
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O 252020Z AUG 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO MAC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 201863

MAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4839 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LUANDA 23 AUG 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS LISBON 4839

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO  
SUBJ: AIRLIFT FOR ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 4815

1. MAJOR ANTONIO CALDAS, MILITARY AIDE TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, WHO HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF GOP COORDINATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ANGOLAN AIRLIFT, CALLED ON ME TODAY. SAID FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT ALREADY ON ITS WAY. HE WAS ASSEMBLING A TEAM WHICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK WITH US ON DETAILS AS SOON AS WE WERE READY.

2. MAJOR CALDAS CLARIFIED SOME OF THE FIGURES THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ME ON A SHEET OF PAPER WITHOUT EXPLANATION BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. THE 80,000 POTENTIAL EVACUEES FROM LUANDA REPORTED REFTEL REPRESENTED ONLY THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE EMERGENCY CASES. THE TOTAL NEEDED TO BE TRANSPORTED FROM LUANDA WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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140,000.

3. BACKTRACKING, CALDAS SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES TO BE TRANSPORTED IS 300,000. 100,000 OF THOSE WILL

BE HANDLED COMMERICALLY BY THREE TAP 747S AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WE CAN FORGET THEM. THE REMAINING 200,000 ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND ARE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN. RIGHT NOW THE GOP HAS NO CAPACITY TO HELP THEM. 140,000 ARE IN LUANDA AND 60,000 IN NOVA LISBOA.

4. THE CHIEF LIMITATION IS THE CAPACITY OF THE GROUND CREWS AT THE LUANDA AND NOV LISBOA AIRPORTS. RIGHT NOW, CALDAS, SAID, LUANDA HAS THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE THREE 747S PER DAY. TO MEET GOP GOALS, CALDAS INTENDS TO PUT ANOTHER TEAM IN LUANDA, GIVING IT A CAPACITY FOR FOUR 747S PER DAY. NOVA LISBOA CANNOT HANDLE 747S. TH GROUND CAPACITY THERE CAN TAKE EIGHT 707S PER DAY. THIS AIRPORT CAN OPERATE ONLY IN DAYLIGHT.

5. IN SUM, IF GOP WERE, WITH INTERNATIONAL HELP, TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM AIRLIFT CAPACITYTHEY WOULD HAVE FOUR 747 OPERATING DAILY OUT OF LUANDA AND EIGHT 707S OPERATING DAILY OUT OF NOVA LISBOA. RIGHT NOW THE ONLY THING THAT IS OPERATING ARE THE THREE COMMERCIAL TAP 747S.

6. CALDAS SAID HIS PLANNING STAFF IS READY TO GO AND URGED WE MOVE RAPIDLY. REQUEST MAC PLANNING STAFF BE IMMEDIATELY DESPATCHED TO LISBON.

CARLUCCI

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRLIFTS, REFUGEE RELIEF  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE201863  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** PM/ISO: RWMASSON:ML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisooob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by ellisooob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971003  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PO, PFOR, PINT  
**To:** MAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006